

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 SAJ-01 PRS-01 PM-01 SP-02 /038 W  
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P 250959Z JUL 75  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6368  
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

S E C R E T THE HAGUE 3736

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, PO  
SUBJECT: DUTCH REPORT ON COMMUNIST COUP D'ETAT ATTEMPT IN PORTUGAL

1. FOLLOWING IS REPORTED ON THE CHANCE THAT IT MAY CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING OF USE TO DEPARTMENT'S INTELLIGENCE RE CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL.

2. DURING CHARGE'S JULY 24 MEETING WITH FONOFF POLITICAL DIRECTOR RUTTEN ON OTHER BUSINESS, HE VOLUNTEERED INFORMATION ON A DISCRETIONARY BASIS RE PLAN BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY TO CARRY OUT COUP D'ETAT IN NEXT FEW DAYS. INFORMATION WAS REPORTED BY NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR IN LISBON WHO HAD IT FROM A PORTUGUESE SOCIALIST PARTY SOURCE. COUP D'ETAT WAS BEING PLANNED AND ORGANIZED BY COMMUNIST PARTY AND WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH NECESSARY SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE FROM ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. RESULTING NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD DISSOLVE SOCIALIST AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE DICTATORSHIP, WHATEVER IT CALLED ITSELF. SOCIALIST PARTY WOULD GO UNDERGROUND AND TRY TO ORGANIZE NATIONAL RESISTANCE.

3. INFORMATION MADE AVAILABLE TO NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR INCLUDED AN APPEAL TO GON (WHICH SOURCE SAID WAS ALSO BEING MADE TO UK) TO UNDERTAKE A PROMPT DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIET  
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UNION TO STOP INTERFERRING IN PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS.  
IF COUP D'ETAT WERE SUCCESSFUL GON WAS ASKED TO ABSTAIN FROM PARTICIPATION IN HELSINKI SUMMIT ON GROUND THAT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN PORTUGAL HAD VIOLATED THE CSCE SPIRIT.

4. RUTTEN'S PERSONAL REACTION TO THE FIRST POINT OF THE APPEAL WAS THAT ANY DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE A TOTAL NON-STARTER, AND HE REFERRED TO THE FRG'S RECENT FUTILE ATTEMPT TO TALK TO THE SOVIETS ABOUT PORTUGAL. RUTTEN WAS ALSO DUBIOUS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD AT THIS LATE STAGE DECIDE TO STAY AWAY FROM HELSINKI EVEN IF UNHAPPILY A COMMUNIST-INSPIRED COUP D'ETAT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. THE GON WOULD PROFOUNDLY REGRET AND DEPLORE SUCH A DEVELOPMENT BUT RUTTEN THOUGHT THAT ANY MORE CONCRETE REACTION WOULD DEPEND ON WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE IN LISBON AND HOW.

5. RUTTEN ADDED THAT NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR WAS TO CONSULT WITH HIS BRITISH COLLEAGUE IN LISBON AND RUTTEN SAID HE WOULD INFORM US OF THIS CONTACT. HE, IN TURN, ASKED EMBASSY TO PASS ON WHATEVER INFORMATION WE COULD MAKE AVAILABLE RE PLANS FOR A COMMUNIST COUP D'ETAT.

TANGUY

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMMUNISTS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, REPORTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975THEHA03736  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** D750257-0297  
**From:** THE HAGUE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t197507103/baaaafdc.tel  
**Line Count:** 75  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <02 OCT 2003 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971022  
**Subject:** n/a  
**TAGS:** PFOR, NL, PO, PFOR  
**To:** STATE INFO LISBON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006